

Wish you were Dead, by author Todd Strasser, is an Abraham Lincoln Book Award Nominee for 2012. Strasser creates a vivid depiction of Soundview, a well-to-do town full of rich and cliquey high school students. There are several characters that play an essential part in the ever-winding plot Strasser produces. An anonymous blogger depicts her hatred against a few popular people that go to her school. After she lists Lucy, Adam, and Courtney as people she wish would die, the three students mysteriously vanish. Meanwhile, another popular girl, Madison, is well liked by all her classmates, but is friends with the “in-crowd”. Madison is distraught that her three best friends have vanished without a trace, but her crush, Tyler, who mysteriously showed up to their school a month into the school year; he is dark and secretive, but she cannot help but be attracted to him. Madison becomes frightened that Tyler is the kidnapper and killer of her three best friends; little does she know, however, that he has actually followed the person he believed killed his sister, Ethan. Ethan was dating Tyler’s sister when she, too, was kidnapped and murdered, much like the other students at Soundview High School. Ethan has followed who he believes to be the killer, a high school science teacher, Ms. Skelling, in hopes of bringing justice to her, for he was framed for the murder of his girlfriend. Madison has to decide how she will save her friends before it is too late, and who she can trust throughout the process. Ultimately, she becomes enslaved herself, but with the help of Tyler, she is able to rescue Courtney, Ethan, Tyler, and herself before they were killed.

This book was an easy read and quite intriguing. It is, however, for older audiences, or at least a more developed reader. The plot had many twists and turns that made the reader concentrate and problem solve throughout the text. There were also many references to foreshadowing that could be picked up by students. There is some violence in it, but nothing any more graphic than other texts that students may read or see on television. It is a great mystery

novel that is exciting and constantly changing. I would recommend this book for my more mature students.